

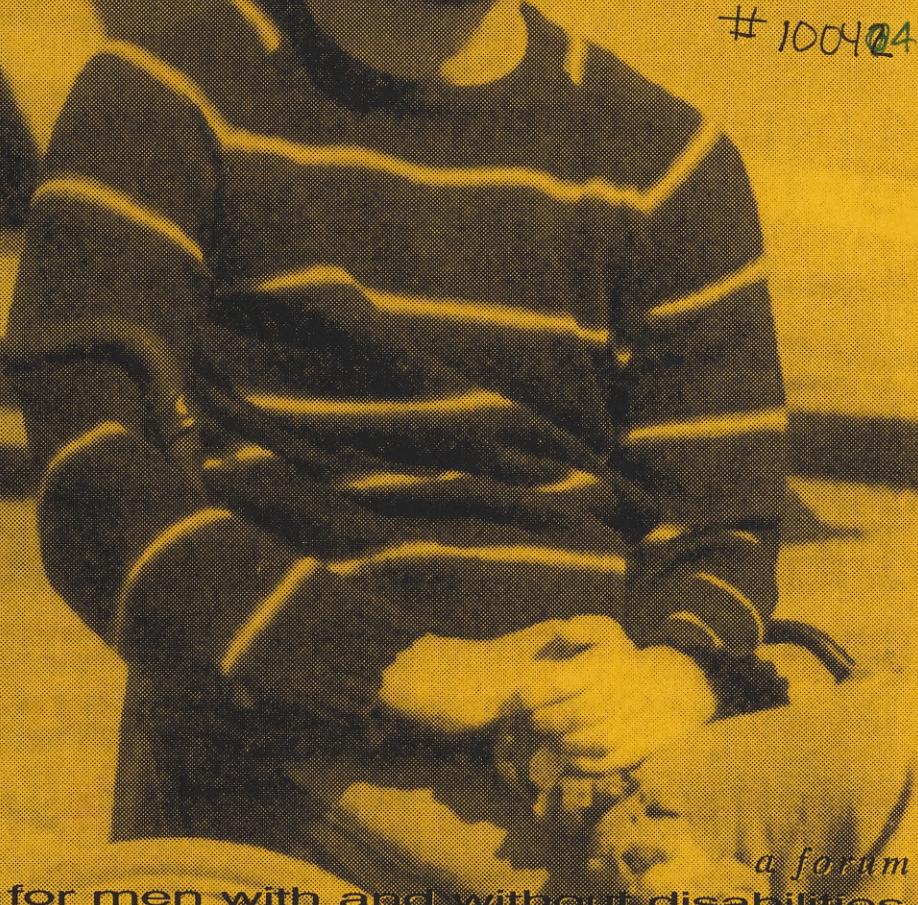
ABLE-TOGETHER

FALL 1999, Volume 6, Number 4

Magazine

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

100424



a forum
for men with and without disabilities

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ABLE-TOGETHER in 2000

a message from the PRESIDENT

Organizations, like families, grow and change over time. Members grow up, move away, start their own families, meet challenges, triumph and fail in a hundred different ways. During the last five years ABLE-TOGETHER, Inc. has grown in unexpected and exciting ways.

We've become a tax-exempt corporation; starting with only *ABLE-TOGETHER* magazine (which itself has changed dramatically) our programs have grown to include Cafe A-T, Disgaytalk, and the Buddy program (see back cover). By the time this issue is in your hands we'll have completed our first major fundraiser, a benefit recital by pianist Garrick Ohlsson. Our international family of subscribers and advertisers is always changing. Our family of writers and artists continues to give voice to the dis gay issues which constitute the heart of our endeavor. Throughout this period of change, *ABLE-TOGETHER* has been guided by the same small band of volunteers. This month Peter Geiger, one of the founders of *ABLE-TOGETHER* and recently our executive director, announced his departure. Peter's years of devoted work have been largely responsible for the position of strength we find ourselves in today. For all of its positive aspects, however, our growth has brought its own stresses. Paramount among them is a feeling of exhaustion among board members who continue to carry out far too many tasks for such a small group. To flourish, we need your continued support, but we also need a larger board, one whose members are willing to shoulder the burden of day-to-day tasks and are suited to the always daunting task of raising money. Creating that kind of board will be *ABLE-TOGETHER*'s biggest challenge in the year 2000.

-Blaine Waterman



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**GIVE YOUR-
SELF OVER
TO ABSOLUTE
PLEASURE/SWIM THE
WARM WATERS OF
SINS OF THE FLESH.**

Rocky Horror Picture Show. Remember? Sounds like great advice to me. I figure that cripz don't get to swim in those waters nearly often enough, so let's all plunge in friends—what we need is more "sins" of the flesh. (Fundamentalists need not apply).

Does this enticing "everybody into the pool" prospect have anything to do with why men subscribe to *ABLE-TOGETHER*? I hope so. Sure, I hope you read *A-T* for provocative features like this issue's forum on ageism (*Is Younger Better?* on p.12) and Barry Zeve's essay on humor (*Laughing Out Loud*, p. 19), but I suspect it's the contact ads that got you here first. Good thing? Bad thing? Neutral thing?

That's the question I've been thinking about. Maybe it's merely the Fall Equinox, maybe it's something bigger (the Millennium—that's it!), but something's been inspiring me to meditate on the deeper issues that unite us. Since we're all in this together, both disabled gay men and

ABLE TOGETHER



**from the
EDITOR**

the nondisabled men who find us attractive (or might even be sufficiently self-aware to wonder why they *don't*), it makes sense to revisit the larger picture now and then.

I see that larger picture framed by one simple question that can be posed in a number of different

ways: "Why don't we get into those warm waters more often? Why don't the personals work better? Why don't we get more dates, have more significant others in our lives? My simple answer to that simple question is: Because we don't feel better about ourselves.

By putting all your energy and expectations into the contact ads, for example, you may be giving away your own power, you may be shifting the focus of your own legitimate desire onto a kind of phantom, someone who never exists in the way your projected desire prompts you to imagine. It's no wonder that disappointments ensue. Fantasy is great and contact ads *can* work, but to get kissed, to get that second date—to get laid, you'd better believe in your own desirability first. I was reminded of that necessity last

night while walking through the Castro with a friend. "I've been noticing that a lot of guys stare at your hand," Mac observed. "I'm sure they're staring at my limp, too." I answered. "It's funny," he continued, "I guess I've known you long enough so that those things seem just like a part of you. But I guess you have to expect that people will stare."

Oh, I do expect it, but I've learned that how I receive the stares makes a difference. I used to think that the looks I got from gay men were, invariably, looks of revulsion. I've learned better, thanks in part to my work with A-T. Sometimes the looks are merely expressions of curiosity, but sexual interest can be part of the mix. We crips have the responsibility to imagine that a positive exchange might occur on the strength of a curious gaze. I've learned to stare back, with anger, or humor, curiosity, or sexual heat, depending on my mood and on who's doing the looking. I've decided that my response is part of my commitment to live the examined life.

That's how I think of the writing you find in these pages, too—continuing exercises in the examined life. Read these pieces with the same curiosity and introspection it took their writers to put them on the page and you'll make discoveries about yourself. I'm convinced of it. Those discoveries, in turn, will make you, not instantly, but over time, wiser men, men more capable of receiving the positive gaze. Men, in fact, who expect it. Is this hard work? You bet it is. Nobody told you being a crip would be easy, did they? But just think of slipping into those warm waters . . .

—Bob Guter

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Blowin' My Way

Ed Gallagher

Hard-bolied fiction? Fantasy? Romance?
You might find all three in Able-Together's
first short story.

"What the Hell is up with you?"
"Nothin' . . . can't you see?"
"Come again?"
"I'm workin' on my first."
"Wiseass . . ."
"If I keep it where it is."
"I'm splitting this dump."
"Hope it was somethin' I said."
"Prick!"
"Not for you."

SLAM! ... Lights!

Tony Mignone pulled up his too-tight Jockeys and grabbed a cold one out of the fridge. He toasted to a late night alone and chugged three quarters of the brew in less than a minute. Tony liked drinking from brown bottles with long necks. Kept his mouth in shape for better things to come.

He was handsome enough to be choosy. Twenty-five and 6'3" with curly brown hair and fine stubble that enhanced perfect cheekbones. Blue eyes and the

physique of an Apollo Creed (remember "Rocky?"), an olive complexion that hadn't sprouted a zit since puberty—some guys had all the luck.

Of course, he knew he was hot. Only a jerk would disagree. They were out there, too. The thing is, Tony would grab anyone, regardless of race or face, when the mood seized him. A nice mug was a plus, even a few wrinkles. But in the dark Tony's imagination took charge. He could usually get it up for anything male. Many an ugly customer paid wisely and left satisfied. He ran a decent business. Supply and demand is all that everything comes down—and up—to.

Tony had to work these dudes to get the extra cash he wanted, but the buffoon who'd just bolted out of his Fourteenth Street apartment was too much. Hell, imagination can only take you so far. If it ain't there, it ain't there.

At least Tony got dinner out of it, soft shell crabs and Caesar salad at Gregorio's in Tribeca. He was usually a genius at managing his resources, but maybe five glasses of wine was enough to keep anybody soft.

II

To say that Tony was a man's man was hitting it on the head, so to speak, ever since his Uncle Peter had showcased his peter to him after Tony's fifteenth birthday party. His father's brother was thirty-four at the time. He taught Tony fleshly lessons for two more years before he got gunned down by some thug in a Bronx restaurant, just like that scene from *The Godfather*. He was a helluva professor, though, as Tony's client's could testify.

When Tony told his father about Uncle Peter, the roof caved in. He roared that his brother was better dead, and that no sissy son was going to live in his house. When he threw Tony out there was no mother to go to. She'd been evicted a year earlier—and murdered soon after that in a Bronx women's shelter. So Tony had been making his way whatever way he could ever since.

Maybe Peter was why he usually dug older guys. They carried history (and more loot) than punks his own age. He was glad he could be choosy—most of the

time. That's what he was thinking as he flopped onto his bed, unmade for the last three weeks, and snatched the remote: 12:42, *Nick At Night*, then *Superman*. Tony grinned at the big screen and fingered a nipple; he could've taught Clark Kent a thing or two after fogging up his glasses. Super men come in other ways, too.

Tony could stay up as late as he liked. No nine-to-five job for him anymore, not since Con Ed canned him one day after meter reading took on a new meaning. The kid seemed like a club member, after all. Christ, he was home on break from Yale, of all places. Who could blame Tony for copping a quick grope? The kid sure as hell wasn't resisting. If his old man hadn't stuck his big ugly head outside it would've been a done deal. The old prick called Tony's manager, Pops got free electricity for six months., and Tony got canned. For once, the ol' squeeze play backfired.

III

Tonight, Tony was restless. Maybe he'd go out for a while. Might as well take advantage of the City That Never Sleeps. Funny, no matter how good-looking you were, you could still feel lonely.

Tony felt sweaty, sniffed his armpits. He knew there was something erotic about a hot

body left unwashed. The blood-hounds who hung out after midnight at Tony's usual haunts had noses for booze, drugs, asses, and cocks. He yanked his jeans on, fumbled for his sandals. It was still near eighty degrees outside, so he pulled on a green tank top, freshly laundered.

Tony trotted down four flights to the street. The early morning air felt like a caress—like something significant, something he wanted more of. It made him think of Bob Dylan. *Blowin' In The Wind* said it all. Adults were hanging out all over the place, even kids. Cats, dogs—the obedient ones didn't need leashes. They were happy slaves, clinging to their masters. In a way, Tony envied them.

He walked to the corner of 14th and 10th. Cops had a couple of punks in cuffs. Paramedics were treating an old woman for a head wound. She was yelling that she didn't want to go to the hospital. Tony knew enough not to get involved. He walked on.

"Want some company?" A blond kid about twenty pulled up to the curb in a brown LTD. Tony looked up: "What?"

The kid flashed a twenty.
"You up for it?"

Tony chuckled. It wasn't the first time he'd been propositioned on the street. "Sure, but

not for twenty ." The kid added a ten. Tony nodded. He got in and the kid hit the gas. The lights ahead were green.

"Whadya want?" he asked, glancing at the driver. This boy was not standard issue for Tony, but thirty bucks was thirty bucks. He massaged the kid's thigh. The car accelerated.

"Suckoff," the kid murmured.

Tony laughed. This boy was too cute to pay for it. He looked like he was from someplace like Larchmont, for crissake, down for experimentation. Tony wasn't sucking cock these days, unless he was really turned on by a trick he was sure was clean. The kid was hot, but not that hot. He hated the taste of rubbers, so that was out. It was the real deal or nothing. Besides, Tony was tired. What about the kid? He was hungry. A little persuasion would do it. The car stopped at a red light near 20th Street. Tony stroked his own cock.

"Fine. You do me."

"Huh? For thirty bucks!"

"I'm doing you a favor."

"Damn ... Are you okay? I hate rubbers."

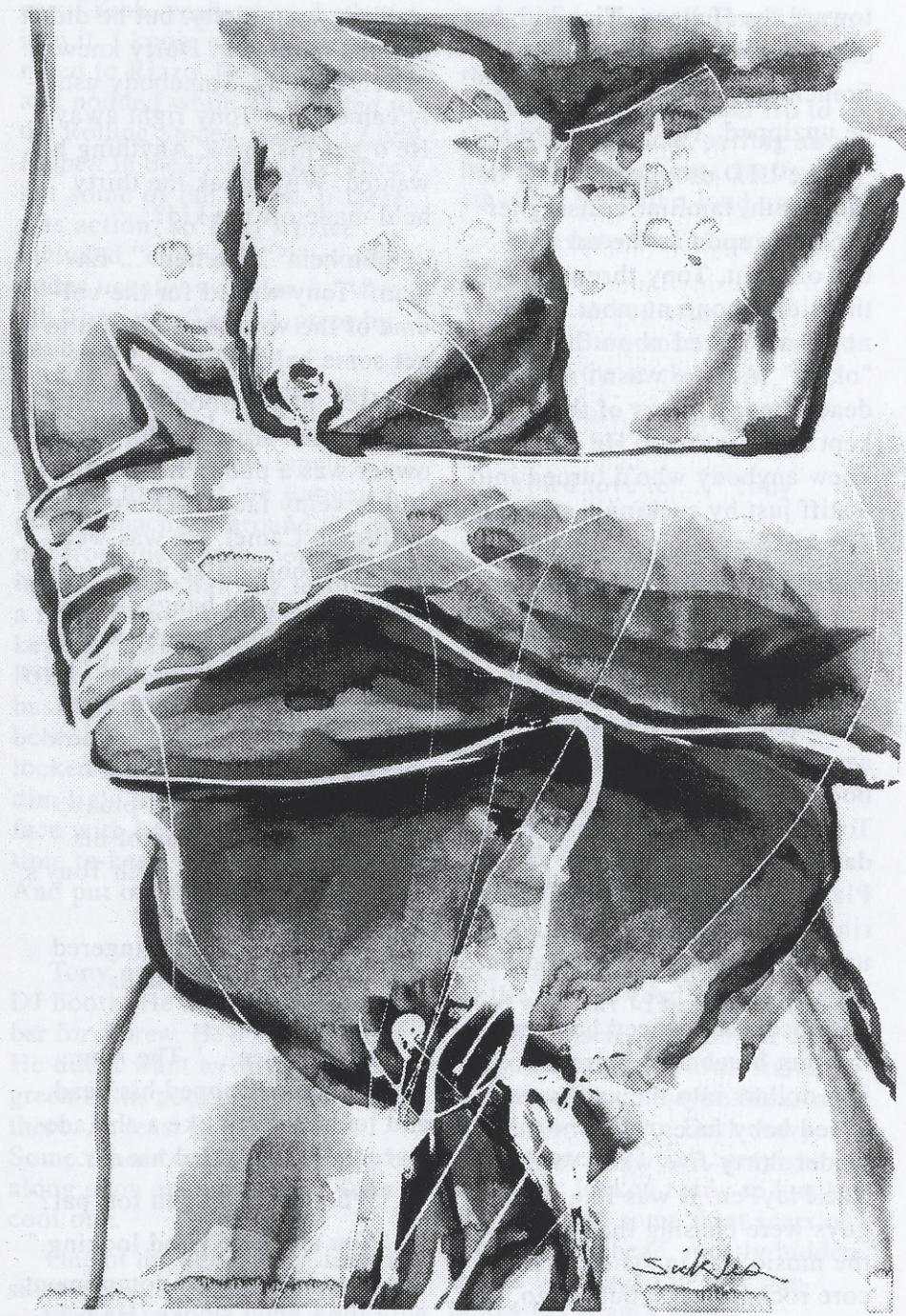
"Join the club."

"I dunno."

"You know you want to."

He reached for Tony's pole.

Tony motioned to make a left onto 23rd. The LTD raced west



Big Torso No.12, ink wash by Steven Sickles, 1999

toward the Hudson. Nice kid, but enough was enough. Tony French kissed him once before he unzipped. The kid needed it.

The LTD dropped him off on West 18th, familiar cruising territory. As soon as the car was out of sight, Tony threw away the kid's phone number. He'd never answered about being "okay." Well, he wasn't sick or dead after six years of this. He kept his legs down. He never knew anybody who'd turned into a stiff just by sucking a stiff one. The kid was hungry. Tony hoped he kept his legs down.

IV

Chelsea: The PlayPen, on West 16th, was its usual seedy self—pool table, pinball, middle-aged queens in suits with loot to boot. Plenty of smoke and coke. Tony'd had a bit of both in his day. Not tonight, though. The PlayPen had its own little boxing ring, a pen for muscular guys got up in Pampers. They sucked on brown-nippled baby bottles filled with beer and danced barefoot, inviting blueballed patrons to jam dollars into their diapers. Lined baby faces, most of them Under thirty-five was a rarity at The PlayPen. It was like these guys were chasing the past. Even the music was in synch. Hardcore rock, always, but Rizzo, the DJ, tolerated no tunes later than 1977.

Tony was thirsty, but he didn't call the bartender. Duffy knew better, anyway. Somebody usually came on to Tony right away. He'd get his brew. Anything he wanted. Why break the thirty he'd made off the kid?

"Eh hem ... Eh hem ... Eh hem." Tony waited for the volume of the voice behind him to get some balls in it.

"Hey, hey!" Good enough. Tony turned around. The voice's owner was a pudgy little walrus with a veiny face, sucking on an unfiltered Camel. He was wearing what looked like a brown Beatles wig with bangs that nearly covered his eyes. And a green corduroy leisure suit (Tony worked hard to keep a straight face). Black loafers and yellow socks completed the outfit. Somewhere in the fifty-plus neighborhood. The top of his phony hair was level with Tony's tank-topped nipples.

"Yeah, bub?" Tony fingered the Walrus's chin. "What's shakin'?"

"Ho, ho, hee ..." The man wheezed. He dropped his head and looked away like a shy adolescent. Tony tickled his ear.

"What can I do you for, pal?"

"You are sooo good looking."

Tony inhaled the compliment with the Camel smoke. He bent over and whispered in the man's

ear: "Yeah, yeah, okay. Let's get into it. I know where." Tony signaled to Rizzo. Rizzo winked and nodded while he wiggled to the Rolling Stones' *Mother's Little Helper*. In the Playpen, everybody got some of the action, if there was action, so Tony's price included "overhead." The older dudes usually went for it. After all, Tony was Tony. A prize by anybody's reckoning.

"Fine. Oh, boy. Fine," the Walrus wheezed.

Tony grabbed his lapels, steering him past the Batman pinball machine, around the corner from the men's room and into a narrow hallway leading to a locked door. Tony had his own key. He always checked with Rizzo anyway. Business was business. Tony closed the door behind them with a thud. It locked itself. He flicked on a dim light and raised the man's face with both hands. "Now its time to keep your head down. And put out that butt . . ."

V

Tony paid Rizzo his cut in the DJ booth. He strutted over to the bar for a brew. He'd wait, though. He didn't want to dirty the clean green in his pocket. It would stay there. At least in the Playpen. Some other cocksucker would be along soon enough to buy Tony a cool one.

One of the aging baby dancers, smoking a cigar and holding a nipple bottle, escaped from the ring and hopped onto the bar. He

squatted in front of Tony's face. Three dollar bills peeked out of the Pampers, below his hairy navel. He rocked to and fro to a Grateful Dead tune, puffing away, half-winking at Tony. Duffy smacked his butt a loud crack.

"Was baby bad?" quipped Tony.

Duffy turned crimson with laughter. Baby rose and stormed back into the sticky ring.

"Up yours," he shouted to Tony over his shoulder.

"You'd love to . . ." Tony mumbled.

"Can you blame him?" asked an unfamiliar voice. Tony turned too fast. His elbow connected with flesh.

"Whoah! Whoah . . ." A young guy in a motorized wheelchair was cupping the left side of his chin. He looked up at Tony. "Watch it, will you?"

"Yeah, well. Sorry . . ." Tony was about to drift off into the crowd. "You all right?" He was antsy, but something kept his feet bolted to the floor. "How 'bout a drink?" The kid spat, collected himself, and looked up at Tony. He was beautiful. Italian or Puerto Rican, maybe Mexican, about twenty-two. Dark wavy hair covered his ears, grayish-blue eyes looked ready to laugh. Tony noticed some faint scars on the kid's forehead, mostly hidden by his hair, and a deeper one below his adam's apple.

IS YOUNGER BETTER?

We live in an ageist culture.

Our gay subculture ups the age ante even more.

How do disabled gay men feel about differences in age?

Does age have a special bearing on disability?

On the search for sex and love?

We asked four of our favorite correspondents

to weigh in on the issue.

BLAINE

Here's one way to frame the ageism question from my point of view: What do you do when you have a sneaking feeling you are missing out on a potentially great lover(s) if you, a younger disabled man, notice all these older guys interested in you—but you're not interested in them? Is that ageism?

For me "isms" like racism and ableism are about a lack of respect for the other person, which is fundamentally hurtful and unfair. It's not simply a matter of, "Gee, some black people are really nice, so if I'm a racist I'm missing out on some good times." It's about "Do unto others . . ."

Do sexual desire and choice fall into this fall into this realm?

For me they don't, because sexual choices are one at a time, and who has the right to look at the guys I sleep with (or don't) and say, "you should not have picked him." No one has the right to second-guess me in that fashion. I do believe, though, that our sexual choices have meaning and that we should strive to be as open as possible to human contacts of all sorts.

I don't feel guilty because I'm attracted to much younger guys, but I've been working to broaden my horizons. I'd be happier with myself if I felt more attraction to women, for instance. There's definitely a part of me that's scared of women sexually. Are my feelings sexist? I don't think so, but as Woody Allen so

famously observed, my dating pool would be twice as large if those feelings shifted.

DANNY

Like Blaine, I've spent an inordinate amount of time and energy chasing younger guys. I admit my own disturbing hypocrisy on the issue of age; I want to be able to flirt and chase among the younger crowd, but I'm uncomfortable extending the same grazing rights to older guys when it comes to chasing me.

The difficult paradox is that younger guys, for me, are the source of more attraction but are also the source of more tension and discomfort in relation to my disability. Bluntly, in my experience, guys younger than I tend not to "get" disability in any meaningful way. Older men are much more accepting and understanding.

Why don't I pursue relationships with older guys if they're more aware and comfortable with disability? It's simply that for me, the dynamics of interacting with an older guy are often all

wrong; he will understand my disability and be more sensitive to my needs, but the age difference may propel him unconsciously into a pattern of treating me like a fragile creature, one who requires constant nurturing and attention.

I had a father whom I loved; I don't need another one. While I don't wish to subject myself to the superficial denial of disability endemic to many younger men, I don't think that being fussed over like an invalid nephew is an acceptable substitute.

By the way, I'm 34. I am culturally attuned to men decades older than myself but not attracted to them necessarily in a romantic or sexual way. This affinity tends to make my interaction with older men complicated. I worry about my conversational ease coming across as romantic interest. I no more wish to disappoint a 50-year-old who is interested in me than I would wish to be ignored by some cute 21-year-old, but on the other hand, I no longer feel obligated to go out on a date with anyone who

meets the dual criteria of being interested in me and being ok with my disability. For many years, I agonized each time I turned anyone down for a date; I didn't want to do to others what had been done to me so repeatedly and devastatingly over the years. But it's not my duty to go out with everyone on earth just because I'm disabled and know how tough rejection can be.

I worry about becoming just as callous and using as many gay men, but friends have told me to discard absurdly high standards and expectations for my own behavior. So I'm confused; the age question, and too many evenings when only people my parents' age would talk to me in gay social settings, can do that to me quite easily.....

BLAINE

I've noticed the same thing that Danny points out about younger guys and disability. They don't often understand it and they're rarely comfortable with it. Most men older than

35-40 seem less afraid of, less threatened by disabilities. Young guys are notoriously in denial of the body's fragility. I think we disabled men are an unsettling reminder of that reality. A lot of older men have come to terms with that reality, so I don't believe that the rapport they might have with disabled men is a matter of "settling for."

DANNY

I agree. And by the same token, I don't automatically consider older men less attractive; I am merely uncomfortable with those men who behave toward me in a way which suggests avuncular protectiveness, which I find unnecessary and awkward—unless I get to do some protecting as well. It's because I find older men generally deeper and more interesting than younger ones that makes the poor dynamics that much more frustrating when they happen. Younger men tend to disappoint for the opposite reason: their depth is rarely of a piece with their surface glamour.



Boy Joy (Ganymede), ink wash by Steven Sickles. 1999

JULIO

I loooove older guys! I love younger guys! I love people my age! I love to love. I've been with younger men, men my age, and older men. I try to enter a relationship with as little bias as possible. But because we're talking about ageism, and it seems to me that ageism usually refers to discrimination against older people, I'll focus my attention on older men.

Some older men can be very attractive to me, both physically and emotionally. When relating to them I tend to enjoy a more low-key interaction than when I relate to younger guys. I often find that the emotional substance of my relationships with older men comes to surface more intensely. Things seem to find their place naturally.

Regarding role playing, real age has no part in it. I can be the Daddy to an older man or the Son to a younger one, or vice-versa. It's all good. If you know yourself, you'll find that an intrinsic sense of equality pervades all mature relationships. If I cannot perceive and honor my younger

or older partner as my equal, I lose my balance (no wooden leg jokes, please!) and the relationship suffers as a consequence. Role playing is just role playing. It can be fun, healing, and adventurous. But when I love someone and I look into his eyes, I usually see my equal—all the rest is just play. And playing is good.

MAX

I'm the oldest man and the single nondisabled man in this group, so my perspective is a little different—but ultimately I don't think it's very much different at all. I can identify with everything everyone else has said, but I want to emphasize one particular aspect of my own experience. For me, at this stage of my life, age and physical condition are linked more and more. This week I went to my usual monthly cigar sex party. I'm 50 years old, creeping up towards 300 pounds, but I went and bared a good part of my chest (with piercings—it pays to advertise!). Among some of the takers for what I had to offer was a young, very

hot-looking and well-defined young man, an incredible beefy bodybuilder type., plus a number of other juicy men who most guys would not have thrown out of their beds. What would have happened if I'd gone there telling myself, "I'm too old, with too little hair on my head and too much belly?" Nothing, right?

Was I surprised by the bounty I did encounter? Hell, yes. Would I have been satisfied with men less abled than those I met? I might have been even more satisfied (but then, you knew that already).

Did I get some special blessing from on high (or low) that night? Hell (or Heaven) no! I go to that party with the attitude that if you don't like what you see you can walk right by—'cause the next guy who passes might decide that I'm just what he needs at that moment. I don't apologize for not having a 29-inch waist. And I don't answer to anyone if I'm sucking face (or whatever) with a guy with a disability. People pick up on insecurities. If you throw off

the attitude that you're apologizing for what you look like or how old you are then nobody's going to want to get entangled in your mind net.

I know that all of that sounds confident, but don't think I was born with this attitude or that I don't know it's hard to overcome all the negative messages we receive. And not every night at the sex club is as successful for me as this week's. And yeah, it burns me up that there are plenty of guys who can't negotiate the steep flight of steps down to where the party's held, 'cause that limits my chances to meet the kinds of guys I'm hoping to find. But the thing that limits all of our abilities to get out there and meet people is what's going on in our brains, more than what's showing on our bodies. And that has nothing at all to do with age.





Barry Zieve on his way to a laugh

LAUGHING OUT LOUD

Is Crip Humor Funny?

BARRY ZEVE

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE about the rabbi and the priest who conspire to try what is forbidden them by religious law? When they meet the following week to discuss their findings, the rabbi winks at the priest and says, "It's better than pork, isn't it?"

Funny? Sex is a perennially popular topic for humor. But what about ethnic humor? I've been conditioned to like jokes in which the rabbi comes out looking clever. As a child of Jewish Holocaust survivors it was probably overwhelming to my family to consider any other alternative.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE about the rabbi and the priest who go golfing? They're held up from teeing off by three blind men crawling around the green searching for their golf balls. They're aggravated until they realize the men are blind. The priest regrets his irritation, but the rabbi retorts, "Screw 'em. Let 'em play at night."

Funny? Disability combined with ethnic/religious humor. Wow! But listen: the rabbi's epithet is callused: not good for the Jews, I think. But then again, the soundness of his alternative dismisses the priest's sentimentality. The rabbi's harsh detachment from the blind men's condition comes across as funny. I laughed when I first heard this joke, but then began to wonder; is it politically correct for sighted people to tell blind jokes? And is it OK to tell jokes that make out Jews to be more clever than gentiles, or does this perpetuate a stereotype that will backfire against the Jews? Do I, as a Jew, have a special dispensation to tell such jokes? Do blacks have the right to use the word "nigger?" Disabled men "crip?" Would the golfing joke have been funnier (or funny at all) if one of the blind men had explained, "Sorry if we're inconveniencing you. We usually play at night."?

This would portray the blind men as sensitive to the needs of the sighted golfers; it might even cast them in the role of the “heroic crip” stereotype, a phenomenon much discussed in *Able-Together*. It would certainly depict them as self-reliant enough to solve their own problems.

But I find this rendition of the joke far less amusing. Jokes are not meant to be fair, well-balanced, or sociologically accurate, I begin to realize. Despite the fact that the rabbi, priest, and blind men are all stereotypes of sorts, I find the joke funny because it’s clever: Having the blind golf at night when the sighted cannot is a creative solution. And yet—contemplating a situation in which the blind golf at all frightens me a bit because I have no idea if it’s possible for the blind to golf in reality. So ultimately this joke leaves me feeling conflicted. Maybe the joke’s on me.

Could it be that I am destined to be the one sober fellow in the group—there’s bound to be one—who insists on

explaining why a joke isn’t funny? If so it’s because I so often find myself listening to jokes whose inherent stereotypes miss the mark of individual human truth.

As a ballet dancer, I had the chance to know blacks who were individually gifted (or not) as dancers. Rhythm, I found, had nothing to do with pigment or culture. Jokes about blacks with rhythm die on the vine for me. I had a Danish boyfriend whom I assumed would exhibit high ideals and honorable behavior because of his nation’s history in the Second World War. This cute blond failed to measure up morally, but he did help me bury a stereotype about all Danes being above moral reproach. The same holds true for bellicose Germans, math-genius Asians, drunken Irishmen, criminal blacks and rich Jews. For me, stereotypes leave no room for either truth or humor.

But back to crip humor. I run a bowling club for the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind. Occasionally, two bowlers run

into each other or crack heads from parallel alleys while reaching down to retrieve balls. Funny? The first time I saw it happen I laughed at its slapstick quality. But now it's a real concern. It happens to people who have become my friends and I need to handle it through choreography, not humor.

I agree with the folk wisdom which holds that humor must contain an element of fear (and therefore truth) in order to be funny. The less fear I have (mostly as the result of aging well) the less I seem to find funny in the world, but the more relaxed I become with myself and others. Can it be that laughter is the result of inexperience and fear?

Exposure has taught me that, with time, the interior vistas of men become funnier, while their exterior images grow more matter-of-fact. Given enough time, I expect that even the inner world of men will cease to amuse me. I'll have to check out this theory with some sharp ninety-year-olds.

Oh, and by the way, if you'd like to join a bunch of blind bowlers, whether to dispel a stereotype or just to have fun, you're welcome to join us in San Francisco on Mondays at 1:00 PM at Japantown Bowl and play a game or two for only \$1.00 a game. Don't be concerned about your image. No one is likely to comment negatively on how poorly you do. The environment our bowlers have created is supportive, by and large. But then, I wouldn't want to leave you with a stereotype . . . ☺

Despite being treated for bipolar disorder for more than two decades, BARRY ZEVE has earned a master's degree in education and another in linguistics. After years spent trying to prove he was better than everyone, he's resigned himself to equality. His hobbies include learning not to judge books by their covers and listening. He lives with his tall, dark, and handsome lover in San Francisco. He runs an online joke group. His astrological sign is unlisted.

You
are cordially invited to
the remaining 1999
ABLE-TOGETHER Cafe Meeting
Cafe A-T
San Francisco

In SF's gay Upper Market, easily reached by BART/MUNI

Sunday October 24th at 2pm

Cafe A-T London

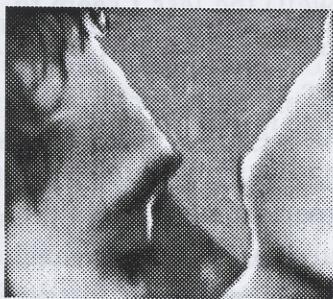
in London's gay Soho, close to Piccadilly Circus

Plans are in the works. Watch this space.

*Join a bunch of good men
like you.*

*Friendly, wheelchair accessible
location.*

**BE SEEN HAVING
A GOOD TIME
WITH OTHER DISABLED & NONDISABLED MEN!!**



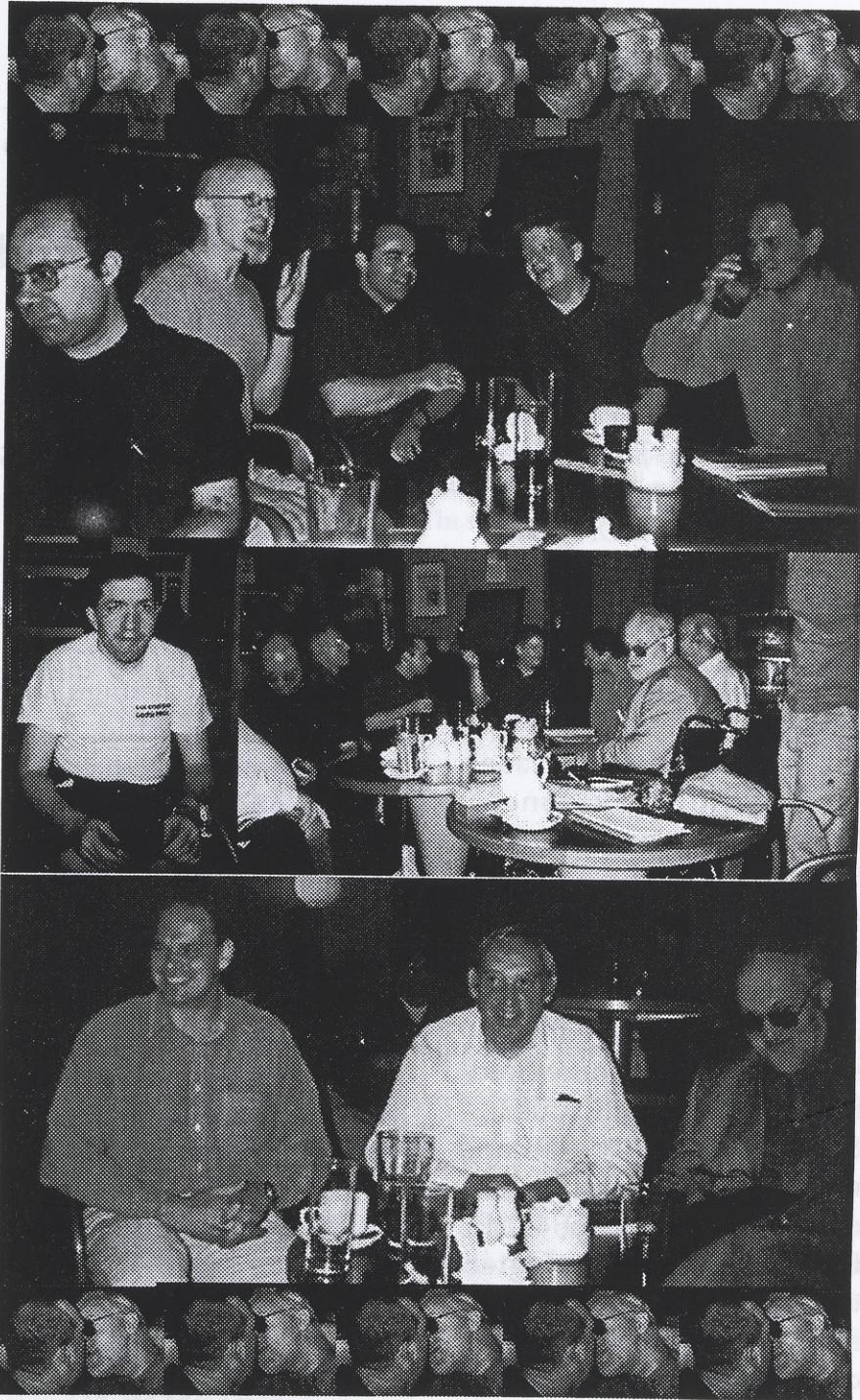
**ABLE-TOGETHER
POB 460053, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146, USA**

***RSVP to:** Voice Mail—US: 415 522 9091

***RSVP to:** Voice Mail—UK: 01453 832782

***RSVP to:** e-mail: ABLTOGETHR@aol.com

***dates and locations subject to confirmation: please leave your telephone number on the voice-mail so we can call you back**



Cafe A-T London: These men are exhibiting traditional British *reserve*?

A B L E - T O G E T H E R

News•News•News•News•News•News•News•News•News•

Wheelchair Bandit Suspect Arrested

Headline from *San Francisco Chronicle*

Now that we've grabbed your attention, please read on.



Cafe A-T Rules

BRITANNIA

Dateline: LONDON, UK

The pilot CAFE A-T LONDON took place between 12 and 3 on August 14 at the Rupert Street Cafe Bar in London's Soho district. A dozen men made the (in many cases lengthy) journey—one from as far away as Tuscany (Italy!)—on a sunny summer morning. Everyone was delighted with the event's convivial atmosphere (your correspondent noted some holding of hands), delicious food, and friendly staff and management. Nearly everyone stayed well past 4PM. Douglas Groome has agreed to form a committee to plan a series of similar events in calendar year 2000.

-Peter Geiger



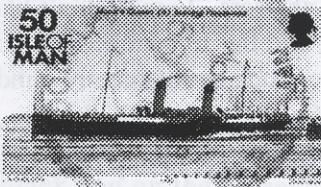
PROUD CONTRIBUTORS

A-T has been invited to contribute a complete run of *Able-Together* magazine to Cornell University Library's Human Sexuality Collection, one of the most distinguished resources of its kind. The collection is home to over 600 cubic feet of manuscript material and thousands of rare books and lesbian and gay periodicals from all over the world, mostly from the 1950s on.

You can learn about the collection's holdings online at <http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/>.

We have also contributed issues of *Able-Together* to the Center for an Accessible Society's "Exploding Myths" project.

B A C K TALK



LETTERS
VOICE-MAIL

E-MAIL

ABLE-TOGETHER
may print extracts from
your communications,
identified by
your initials and state,
unless you specifically
ask us not to

HOW TO REACH US
E-MAIL:

ABLTOGETHR@aol.com

VOICE MAIL/US:

415 522 9091

VOICE MAIL/UK:

01453 832782

LETTER POST:

ABLE-TOGETHER
P. O. Box 460053
San Francisco
CA 94146 USA

KODMUR HITS THE BULL'S-EYE

I wanted to tell you how impressed I was with the article by Danny Kodmur, "Under the Spotlight." I admire his writing style as much as his courage and candor, as he describes how he copes with the "permanent invisible spotlight" and comes to the realization that people with disabilities "are often so afraid of fulfilling the negative stereotype that we fraudulently project ourselves as optimists." It makes me wish I knew him personally, since few people in this world are so squared away and mature.

In spite of what he might think, there is nothing fraudulent about him! Since both the writing and the depth of his honesty are so strong, it makes me think he ought to submit this piece (or a slightly modified version of it) to the "My Turn" column in Newsweek.

E.W., Santa Monica

Danny Kodmur's article in the last issue of *Able-Together* was the most deeply perceptive piece you have published. Although I don't share any of the author's specific physical issues, his insights hit home for me time after time. More Kodmur, please.

G.O., San Francisco

Depression and the struggle for a sense of self are big topics. Danny Kodmur's "Under the Spotlight" explored them with the kind of rare insight that got to the heart of the matter and got to my heart.

M.R., New York

FINDING MR RIGHT THE *RIGHT* WAY?

I recently received a copy of your summer issue and am responding to your request for feedback. It's a great publication and your organization should be commended on its efforts. The ads were numerous and I responded to a couple of them, but got no answers. I really don't like the personals ad concept and process at all, and this experience did not do much to change my mind.

I am definitely not the type to place a personals ad. I would worry about insincere or misleading responses and don't want to get in any such situations. However, I have a dilemma. I am trying to fill a void in my life and would like to work towards a LTR with a paraplegic. The reasons why a paraplegic are complicated and not for this message. Suffice it to say that I'm not a weirdo of any sort nor am I looking to pleasure from someone else's misfortune.

What I'm asking of you is to let me know if there is any way to get in touch with someone other than a personals ad. I would be more interested in a referral, if you know what I mean. I want to be very careful and don't want any of this to come across incorrectly. I feel that I have a lot to give and would like to devote my life to a para who also happens to be the right man for me. I'm seeking nothing short of a soulmate, here.

I hope there is someone out there who would appreciate the fact that there is someone interested in him just the way he is. An ad could simply not do justice to my feelings and could easily be misinterpreted and dismissed. I know there is a lot of insincerity out there, and I don't want to be associated with it.

I hope this makes some sense. I would be willing to subscribe if that's the best shot. Any ideas you have will be greatly appreciated.

S.K., by e-mail

We all know that finding the right man isn't easy and here at Able-Together we're also aware that personals are no panacea. In fact the Summer issue you refer to includes two long letters about the pitfalls of trying to find a buddy or a boyfriend by using this route. No, the personals aren't perfect, but neither are bars, blind dates arranged by friends, church socials or walking the dog! Despite their drawbacks, personals are the only "referrals" that A-T can offer. I think that you sell yourself short, however. It seems to me that in writing your letter you've already written the first draft of the kind of sincere ad that might just get some good replies. All I can say is give it a try. -Bob Guter

ABLE-TOGETHER, POB 460053, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146, USA
Voice-mail US: 415-522 9091/email: ABLTOGETHR@aol.com/Voice-mail UK: 01453 832782

ABLE-TOGETHER Magazine, an international quarterly for bisexual and gay men with and without disabilities, is published by **ABLE-TOGETHER, Inc.**, a California public benefit corporation exempt from federal taxes under IRS Section 501(c)3. Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues appear in January, April, July and October. **A-T Magazine** has subscribers in the US, and in Canada, the UK, and across the globe. You can buy the **Magazine** at certain gay/progressive bookstores in the US and in the UK.

ABLE-TOGETHER Magazine, is unique in the disability movement, looking at the interface of disability and nondisability from *both* viewpoints, and seeking to bridge the gaps which our socialization has created from a perspective emphasizing the generation of positive feeling and experience in men's relationships.

A-T Magazine's fifty-two page Fall 1999 issue looks at how ageism effects disabled gay men, whether "crip humor" is funny, and presents A-T's first short story, "Blowin' My Way," by Ed Gallagher. All this along with readers' letters and email, and nineteen pages of subscribers' personal contact ads. **A-T Magazine** IS its subscribers—who contribute articles, poems, interviews, bulletin-board notices, letters and art to the **Magazine**, and help with outreach locally.

A-T Magazine applies all subscription, sales and donation revenues to production, advertising and outreach costs. ABLE-TOGETHER's international outreach program includes sending informational materials and flyers to independent living centers and to the disabled students' programs and the gay and lesbian students' associations of colleges in the US and Canada; A-T has advertised in US regional gay newspapers and nationally in publications such as *New Mobility*, *The Disability Rag* and *Advocate Classifieds*; in Canada in *Disability Today*; and in the newsletter of the Spinal Injuries Association and in *Disability Now* and *Gay Times* in the UK. A-T's home on the Internet is: <http://www.well.com/~blaine/abletog.html>

A-T Magazine yearly subscribers *only* may submit a personal contact ad for publication for as long as the subscription is active; changes and updates to ads are encouraged; ads may be box#-coded for privacy; **A-T Magazine** does not profit from forwarding replies to coded ads, but we ask that responders reimburse our forwarding postage costs; we reserve the right to edit ads for length and content.

A-T Magazine costs \$30US/£18.50/C\$42.50/A\$44.50/NZ\$53.50 (full-rate subscribers may pay by your personal check drawn in your domestic currency) for a year's subscription of four issues, inclusive of a personal contact ad listing at no additional charge; for men with low income this is reduced to \$15US (US \$ only, please) or \$20US if you send us a photo to be scanned and published with your ad; or you may purchase a single issue for \$5US (US \$ only, please). **A-T Magazine** goes by airmail to overseas subscribers.

A-T Magazine is news: A-T has received mention in *New Mobility*, in the newsletters of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and of the Boston Information Center for Individuals with Disabilities, as well as in gay newspapers and magazines such as *Mandate*, and, locally, the *San Francisco Bay Area Reporter* and *All Points North* in the UK. Organizational subscribers include the World Institute on Disability in Oakland, California, the Homodok Archives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society in San Francisco, Ca.

SUBSCRIPTION AND PERSONAL CONTACT AD REQUEST INFORMATION

When you decide to become a full-year subscriber to A-T you have a choice of starting your subscription with either the **currently available** issue or the **next** issue. Because your ad (if you submit one) will only be published whilst your subscription is active, this choice affects the number of times your ad can appear! This means that if you want your ad to be published four times during your first year with A-T you must specify that you want your subscription to start with the **next** issue and your subscription payment and ad must be received by us before the deadline.

DEADLINES: ABLE-TOGETHER needs your ad copy by 5th December for Winter issue, 5th March for Spring issue, 5th June for Summer issue, and 5th September for Fall issue. New, renewed or changed ads reaching us after these dates are not guaranteed to appear in the issue published the following month. We will try, but...

UPGRADE OPTION: If you buy a single copy of the current issue of A-T for \$5US you may upgrade to a full-year subscription by payment (within three months) of the balance of \$25US/£15/C\$35.50/A\$37/NZ\$44 (full subscribers), or \$10US—low income (US \$ only, please); an upgrade form will be sent to you with your first A-T.

-----to
ABLE-TOGETHER, POB 460053, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146, USA

- PERSONAL CONTACT AD REQUEST FORM -

PLEASE PUBLISH THE FOLLOWING AD WHILE MY SUBSCRIPTION REMAINS ACTIVE:

Signed _____ Date _____

I would like my ad to be: **box#-coded** **uncoded** (please check one)
(we recommend your ad be box#-coded unless you have a P O Box address)

Text of my ad: (include name/address/phone # as you want it to appear in the ad)

(attach separate sheet if necessary)

-----to
ABLE-TOGETHER, POB 460053, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94146, USA

- SUBSCRIPTION /ORDER FORM -

Name: _____ Date _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

I would like a **FULL-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION** (inclusive of personal ad)
starting with the current issue / the next issue (specify issue date)
I enclose \$30US/ £18.50/ C\$42.50/ A\$44.50/ NZ\$53.50, or \$15US low income,
or \$20US with photo to scan

Please send me a **SINGLE ISSUE** of the newsletter; I enclose \$5US

FALL 1999: I

(please check as applicable)

GALLAGHER, continued from page 11

"Sure. Why not?" the kid beamed. But it wasn't a provocative grin, not a come-on. It was different. And nice. Tony nodded, grinned back at him

"So, what'll it be?"

"Oh, I dunno. Something tall, cool ... wet." He unzipped a black bag on the wheelchair's armrest. "Here, I got it."

"No. This one's on me. Beer?" Tony was surprised by his own offer. He dug into his pocket for the wad of fresh money.

"Okay. Amstel."

"Right." Tony signaled Duffy. "Two Amstels."

"You ... spending money? Here?" Duffy smirked.

"Just bring the brews, smartass." For the first time ever, Tony didn't tip him.

Tony and the kid moved to a far corner near the Batman machine. The kid was pretty lean, with some atrophy in his forearms. Tony saw that he had limited dexterity when he reached for the Amstel. He was wearing faded jeans, tan moccasins, and a maroon Knit shirt. Tony was puzzled by the bulge in the kid's belly, considering how undernourished he looked.

"Thanks for the beer," said the kid. "It's taken some practice

and a whole lot of patience, but I'm glad I'm able to have this with you."

"What do you mean?" Tony squatted down and put his hand on the armrest for balance. He wanted to be at face level, but he didn't look the kid in the face. "Looks like you've got things under control."

"Maybe," said the kid.

Rizzo blasted *Helter Skelter* and the man babies went into frenetic gyrations in the ring. The Walrus was sucking face with a pretty black queen in a sequined red dress. Duffy puffed away, keeping an eye on everything that went on in the smoky room. The kid bobbed his head to the beat, but it looked to Tony like his mind was somewhere else.

"This is getting ridiculous," Tony yelled.

"What else is new?," roared the kid.

Tony shrugged his thick shoulders and scoped out the scene. Duffy, obnoxious with patrons who took it because there was nobody in a better place waiting for them. The dancers, funny, pathetic, wanting to be touched. The Walrus, paying lots of green just to be human. And the scattered vultures like Tony, perched above all this libidinal chaos, selling pleasure. Or what passed for it.

The kid looked at his watch. He drank quickly. Like he had an appointment to get to. He finished the beer and asked Tony to put it somewhere. Tony did., dangling it in front of his crotch. The kid looked down and laughed.

"Thanks, but no thanks. I've got what I need."

"Are you sure?"

"It'll do for now."

"What about tomorrow? Tony asked."

"Who knows? Tomorrow's another day."

"I'll give ya a good deal."

"Hey, dude, I've got one."

"Unreal."

"Think so?"

"I don't get it."

"Try to."

"Can I get your number, at least?" Tony was surprised at his own question.

"I don't usually give it out."

"Well ... when *do* ya give it out?"

"When somebody really needs it. Look, I know I'm at this club, but I'm not after cheap fun and games. Sometimes it has to mean something, you know?"

"I'd like it to. I really would."

"It could happen."

"Then gimme me a chance to try."

"Writing's not the easiest thing for me. Come closer. I'll whisper it, okay?"

"Okay."

Tony lowered his head. The kid put his ripe lips close to

Tony's ear and spoke. Tony would need no pen and paper to remember.

The kid tapped Tony's shoulder and thanked him again. He motored his wheelchair, stop and go, through the packed house to the front door and wheeled on out.

Tony took a swig of beer and stood his bottle on the pinball machine next to the kid's empty. From a short distance it looked full. He rubbed his eyes. Rizzo had cranked up Dylan's "My Back Pages" full blast. Time to go home. He pushed through the crowd and walked out the Playpen's front door. Something inside him felt different. The early morning air welcomed him with a soft breezes like a soothing caress, like something significant.

Good morning.



Ed Gallagher's last Able-Together feature was How to Kill A Faggot, an account of why he decided to address high school teachers about homophobia. Ed hosts a cable-TV talk show and recently produced a 30-minute video, underwritten by Bell Atlantic, about adaptive technology/telephone equipment for disabled users. Ed's novel, Johnny in the Spot, is available through the Internet at www.1stbooks.com and will soon be available in a paper edition.

POEM BY CHRIS HEWITT

NO MORE MONICA

"We were good at movies," you said,
winking at me the night we broke up.
What you meant was, we were good at
making out at the movies—lips splishing,
tongues spiraling into each other,
helter-skelter slick. It was just
foreplay. You didn't love me. You wanted
a mistress, you married devil; I was
your Monica Lewinsky.

Now I want a man who wants to
make love in broad daylight and
all the bones about it, likes to lie
naked on a park bench, so I can
lick him all over, doesn't care who sees.
A man who says, "Let them stare. Let
them stand in line to watch like a row
of flagpoles, shaking their dismayed
red-flag faces." I want a man who's
proud to be my lover, who can jump
on the back of my wheelchair like a
queer Charlton Heston and yell "Ben
Hur! Ben Hur! Ben Hur!" all the way
down Castro Street to the applause
of total strangers.

A GUIDE TO CONTACT AD LISTINGS

HOW TO REPLY TO A CODED AD: Put your letter in an envelope, seal it, and put the A-T code # of the advertiser you are replying to in the top right corner of the envelope; if you know your A-T code #, put this (or your initials) in the bottom left corner; **do not put your return address on this envelope**; put this envelope, together with the correct reimbursement for forwarding, please, (see below) in another envelope. This outer envelope should have your return address: seal, address to A-T and mail! You may respond to as many coded ads as you wish, and put all the code-numbered envelopes in the one outer envelope to mail to us.

CONTENT: We believe the best kind of ad is the one that gives the reader the most accurate idea of who you are. We therefore encourage ad length (but reserve the right to edit) and accurate statements of personal statistics such as age and weight. Bear in mind that A-T readers are likely to want to know whether you are disabled or nondisabled, so please include this information. Try to be as detailed as you can about yourself and your way of being and presentation in the world, because it very greatly helps both you and potential responders if they can gain a reasonable picture of you from the ad. *We encourage changes and updates to ads!*

EDITING POLICY: Although ABLE-TOGETHER strives without judgment to encourage honest self-expression we are aware that many of our subscribers may feel depersonalized and objectified in response to certain personal contact ad material. Because of the importance A-T attaches to avoiding objectification and depersonalization in interpersonal relations, we may edit personal contact ads which seem to us to contain sexually overly explicit or overly fetishistic material.

DEADLINES: ABLE-TOGETHER needs your ad copy by 5th March for Spring issue, 5th June for Summer issue, 5th September for Fall issue and 5th December for Winter issue. New, renewed or changed ads reaching us after these dates are not guaranteed to appear in the issue published at the beginning of the next month.

POSTAGE: ABLE-TOGETHER does not seek to profit from forwarding replies to coded contact ads but we do ask that you send us full reimbursement for our postage costs in forwarding your reply to the advertiser:

- for US responses to US advertisers, this is a 32ct stamp;
- for US responses to Canada, this is a 46ct stamp;
- for US responses to advertisers outside the US or Canada, this is a \$1 stamp;
- for overseas responders who do not have US stamps and wish to send a \$1 bill, this will cover three replies within the US or two to Canada or one elsewhere;

but please note that these rates are for minimum-weight letters; heavier items cost more to send, and when in doubt, please check at the post office.

PAYMENT: Remittance of forwarding costs may be made to ABLE-TOGETHER in valid US postage stamps, in currency, or by personal check or money order drawn in US Dollars. Please, no international reply coupons or foreign currency checks for this

PERSONAL CONTACTS INITIATED THROUGH ABLE-TOGETHER CONTACT AD LISTINGS ARE DONE SO ENTIRELY AT THE RISK AND ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED: WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DOING, AND WITH THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE DOING IT WITH; IF YOU DECIDE TO BE SEXUAL WITH SOMEONE YOU ARE VERY STRONGLY URGED FIRST TO CALL YOUR LOCAL AIDS/STD HOTLINE FOR ADVICE.

**ABLE
TOGETHER**
PERSONALS

BUDDIES

The A-T personal contact ads are divided into two sections. The BUDDY section is for advertisers who are not seeking contacts of a romantic or sexual nature. Respondents looking for contact that will lead to sex or romance should reply only to ads in the MORE THAN A BUDDY section.

Seeking
A BUDDY

CENTRAL FLORIDA. Former hotel manager from Washington DC and San Francisco area. Now retired in the sun with Mickey Mouse, and Bear, my companion golden retriever. Sensitive, caring, 48 yo, 5'8", 150 lb., and goodlooking, nonsmoker, light drinker (cheap date, drunk on half a bottle of champagne). Keep fit by working out at local wellness center 5 days a week. I am partially disabled from a prior brain tumor, but have remained whole in mind and spirit. I don't drive, but use a scooter to get around outside and maintain independence. I enjoy gardening, cooking, going out to eat, ice cream socials, Indian artifacts, and communing with nature. Keep my sense of humor sharp by watching humorous sitcom although enjoy reality of *Touch by Angel*. I value humor, kindness, honesty, and above all communication. If you possess these qualities I would love to hear from you. *David Kenny, 510 Cranes Way #107, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701, or ph: 407 339 2734.*

INDIANA. 36 yo male, 5'11", 200#, hairy, goatee, thinning brn hair, gr eyes. I have hidden disabilities that include visual, visual perceptual, learning disabilities, along with very mild Ataxic CP. I am a graduate of Partners in Policy Making and am very active in the disabled community. My interests range from assistive technology, bowling, sports (on tv to wilder stuff. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1024, or E-mail: jpalmer2@hotmail.com*

WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS. GWM, 41 years old learning to come to terms with a congenital brain aneurysm—an AVM—which has left me without the full use of my left leg and essentially no use of my left arm and hand. I'm working with therapists and exercising with the hope to regain the use of most of my body. I also have to deal with panic attacks and the threat of seizures along with an inability to be aware of that which is on my left side (this is a cognitive not optical issue). All of these issues along with the fact that I must live back with my parents make thoughts of intimacy damn near impossible. If there is another gay man out there who may be dealing with any of these problems, I would love to hear from him and hear what he has been through. Until this hit me I was working as a Graphic Designer—an occupation which paid the rent and allowed for my frequent trips to Tower Records and an occasional visit to Italy. I'm looking for someone to talk about my injury experiences with and would like it if this developed into a friendship. I would love to be in a position to feel comfortable seeking someone for an intimate relationship at some point down the road, but not now. For now I am so unaware of my own physical experiences that sharing them with others is totally foreign to me. I also long for the day when I can hug a man with both arms and feel him with both hands. I've been told this will never happen by most of my doctors and therapists. I don't want to accept all of the "never's thrown at me. Can someone be the proof of a light at the end of the tunnel for me? Or at the very least maybe I could work towards the light together with someone else—while you do the same struggle of your own. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1836, or E-mail: KURTC@ibm.net*

Why not send A-T a photo to be published with your ad?

TYNE & WEAR, UK. Hi, I'm a 34 year old GWM 5'10" contented disabled bear looking to make disabled bear (or other) friends. I'm a wheelchair user and a personal assistance user. I work full-time—which pays for my nights out clubbing—and spend the rest of the time keeping up with my pals. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1873, or E-mail: wheelbear@ukonline.co.uk*

Seeking

MORE THAN A BUDDY

**ABLE
TOGETHER**
PERSONALS

NE CALIFORNIA AREA. 50-something GWM seeking correspondence with all who reply. Goodlooking, so I've been told, gregarious/altruistic by nature/disposition. HIV-negative. Enjoy/use only safe sex practices. Live in High Desert. Clean shaven, shaven head—not skin head. 6'4", 210 lbs., looking for similar like-minded significant other candidates. *Micheal George Cordes, Post Office Box 1041, Bishop, CA 93515-1041.*

CALIFORNIA. Handsome, funny, cuddly and charismatic Jewish disabled guy wants to meet men ages 21-45, disabled or not, for correspondence, friendship, romance, or whatever happens. Short, bespectacled, hairy, and compact, with dark hair and eyes, I am equally comfortable with many different kinds of food, music, movies, theater, and people. Here is my photo; I would love to see a photo of you with your reply, but it isn't necessary. I am newly 34, but simultaneously feel much older and much younger; perhaps you feel the same way. Generally, I prefer people who are emotionally open, humorous, and compassionate, although none of these qualities rules out a healthy streak of sarcasm. I also hope to meet people who can accept and encompass my disability in its full context rather than singling it out for special attention. Get in touch and let's see what might develop. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #895, or E-mail: CyranoEB@yahoo.com* Hope to hear from you...

MY NAME IS MICHAEL. I am 45, 6', 210#. I am a right AK amputee. I have a lot of interests, including music, (alternative rock, classical, jazz, world), reading (novels and newspapers mostly), travel, eating out, movies, concerts and theater. I am looking to meet able-bodied men who are 37—48 years old, preferably, and who live in the Southern California area (or visit here regularly) for friendship and perhaps romance. My friends describe me as a fun-loving, interesting and sincere person and I am looking for same. If my being an amputee is a turn-on for you that is just fine by me but I would frankly prefer not to be contacted by amputee wannabes or those seeking phone or cyber sex. Please drop me a note at *Cybermyke1@aol.com* (please mention ABLE-TOGETHER in the subject line so I won't mistake it for a spam) or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #330.*





LOS ANGELES/SoCAL. GWM 30, 5'6", 135 lbs, brn/brn, outgoing professional, interested in social causes, neuromuscular disorder since birth, use wheelchair, crutches; sincere, honest guy who likes to go swimming and sit out in the sun. Seek cute guy, disabled or nondisabled, who's interested in conversation, dinners, movies, sex and loving. Write with photo. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1518, or e-mail: PETERnLA@aol.com*

SAN BERNARDINO AREA. GWM 60, 6'5", 200#, professional, caring, clean-cut, nondisabled, would like to meet a thin, lonely, disabled man 35-65, who is masculine and sincere. Friendship desired and maybe more. Will answer all. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1847.*

CALIFORNIA. GWM 61, weigh 225#, 5'8", very hirsute. I moved to LA from NYC after teaching American history in high school for more than 25 years. I have MS and am wheelchair-bound. I am loving and outgoing. I am looking for friendship, preferably with someone younger. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #436.*



OAKLAND. Able GWM, 52, 6'4", 180#, open to meet new friends for conversation, local travel in my car, home cooked candlelight dinners, quality films and videos, wide range of music from romantic to classical. All are welcome. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1811, or E-mail: compeace@concentric.net*

PLACE IN THE SUN. Fair-completed white jewish male, nondisabled, healthy, attractive and athletic 48 year old professional. I'm well kept and in good shape, a hairy, muscular 5'10"/165# with nice chest and arms, bald/shaved head, blond goatee. A beer or glass of wine with dinner, no smokes/drugs, HIV-neg. I am warm, caring, decent, stable, intelligent, honest and straightforward. Would like to hear from disabled or nondisabled man interested in good connection...intimate friendship...travel...dating...hanging out...sharing place in the sun. I like talking on the phone, cooking, laughing, hanging out, eating together, Seinfeld, Simpsons, fringe theater, movies, working out, physical affection. I like men who are understanding, adventurous, athletic-within-ability, 25-50. San Francisco/UK/beyond. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #252.*



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA. GWM 51, 5' 6", 155 lbs, polio survivor and cane user, iso black or dark-complexioned GM. Want to add zest to my life and having a man in my arms who truly wants to be there brings a sparkle to my eyes and a smile to my face. I lead an active and busy life, so when I stop, I'm tired. I'm looking for someone who is fairly quiet, gentle—shy ok—who desires to connect on a physical and emotional level ranging from occasional dates to sex buddy, boyfriends, soul-mates—let's let the connection between us decide where we go. I neither offer nor expect physical perfection, but hope for chemistry. I'm emotional, sometimes sad, but mostly level-headed and very stable: "walking the talk" is what I offer you, and hope to receive. Please call 415—621 2938 before 9 pm PDT, or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #1224.*

CALIFORNIA. GWM 51, 5'6", 145#, blu, br, 'stache, 18 years hemiplegic wheelchair user, eager for So. Ca. friends, nondisabled or not. I am a former hotel manager and now do AIDS volunteer work. I enjoy life, lite-health cooking, dining, conversations, classical music, opera, movies, theaters, museums, etc...Drink wine but not into bars or scene, do not smoke or do drugs. Be discreet. *Tom, 1525 Appleton #302, Long Beach, CA 90802, ph: 562 436 2880.*

CALIFORNIA. Hi—I'm Bret, a tall, goofy Farm-boy type guy transplanted from the Midwest to San Francisco back in the 80's. Turned 40 this December 1998, Capricorn/Year of the Dog for anyone who is interested in that kind of stuff. SGWM, 6'3", 210, with dark hair and blue/green eyes, boyish face, usually clean shaven except on weekends when I can get a little scruffy. HIV-negative, but that isn't a requirement. Semi-disabled with ruptured/herniated discs, muscle and nerve damage in lower back and legs, has been progressing for twenty years, may get worse as time goes on. Have some limitations, but do what I can. Love trips to Disneyland, music, books, movies, Mystery Science Theater 3000, walks/hikes, crafts, lots of other things. More of a romantic, love to cuddle under the blankets when it's cold and raining out with a good (or cheesey) movie on the VCR and someone nice to hold. Looking for pen pals, friends, dates, LTR with other able or disabled man in San Francisco or anywhere. Also looking to start studying ASL again, and would like to hear from others who use ASL or have studied or like to study—maybe take courses together? Prefer guys between late twenties and late forties, N/S, N/D, if possible (but not mandatory). Kind of shy at first, but open, honest, friendly and funny once I get to know a person. Photo/Phone appreciated. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1667.*

**ABLE
TOGETHER**
PERSONALS

CA

CALIFORNIA. GWM 45, 5'7", 180#, legally disabled 1989 w. atypical facial pain & major depression. Average to good looks, short brown greying hair and hazel eyes. I am clean and honest and live on a limited income. I enjoy b/w vintage film and like to mountain bike to nearest coffee shop. I would like to get out of my apartment and see nature—perhaps travel and see your part of the world. It's much more fun when you can share life's experiences with someone.
David Martin, 203 Neds Way, Tiburon, CA 94920.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Charlie, 55, 6', 180 lbs, blond/blue, mild heart condition, seeking companion to enjoy each other's company; interests—conversation, movies, travel, quiet times. SS. Possible LTR. Please be sincere. No drugs. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1455.*

CALIFORNIA. I'm a middle-aged GWM, 5'10", 200 lbs., using crutches occasionally when my ankle flares up. I am seeking a young man, disabled or nondisabled, preferably under 40, for friendship/romance/possible relationship. My interests include classical music, movies, museums, dining out. *Michael, POB 4054, Berkeley, CA 94704.*

COLORADO. Early retired GWM, N/S, N/D, teddy bear type guy with clipped beard, hairy, is looking for LTR, handicapped or not, Into antiques, thrift store, flea market, classic cars, concerts, off-beat film, trips and you. Looking for sane same who is interested in not being alone, has some income, and not into gay lifestyle. *Occupant, POB 38471, Colorado Springs, CO 80937.*

COLORADO. Toothless Boytoy or Mantoy. Spanish/German GWM with CP, ambulatory, 50 years young, salt & pepper, beard & mustache, brown eyes, 5'4", 130 lbs, HIV-neg. I want to meet stable, healthy, talentedly-oral "Daddy-type" GWMS, nondisabled and disabled, 30-60 yrs. I have a lot to offer the right goodlooking deserving man. You must meet my requirements as I must meet yours. Positive responses gets positive results. Interested GWMS please write with photo (returned upon request) and I will send you mine. Look forward to some good times. Thank you. *Mr. Luis Perez, 1955 Arapahoe Street #806, Denver, CO 80202-1834, or ph: 303 291 0806.*

DELAWARE. Hi! My name is Frank Veasey, 38 year old disabled SGWM, 5' 11" tall, brown hair, blue eyes, 205 lbs. I'm a top. I'm caring, honest, fun, loving, in search of LTR and penpals 30-40 preferred, disabled or not, must be bottom. *Frank Veasey, POB 838, Bear, DE 19701-0838.*

WASHINGTON DC AREA. Black male, hemiplegic on the left side, stroke survivor, 46 years, 29 inch waist, HIV-neg., smooth skin, shaved head, would like to explore my feelings for men disabled or nondisabled bisexual or gay. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1871.*

DC AREA. Abled GM, young 50, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, 'stache, glasses. Smoker, light drinker. Interests—music, dancing, long walks, swimming, intelligent tv, old movies, quiet nights at home. Race/disability friendly, seek same, height-weight proportionate. Your photo gets mine. *POB 27, Lanham, MD 20703-0027.*

FLORIDA. GWM 43, 6', 200 lbs, br;br, nondisabled, in search of GWM 20-50 disabled who walks with crutches. I am an honest, caring, trustworthy male who is seeking to welcome new friends into my life. All correspondence will be answered. *Michael Kirnard, 1025 N. Thorpe Ave., Orange City, FL 32763.*

MIAMI. GWM 31, 5'11". I have blond hair, blue eyes, and am a very handsome guy. Interests include working out, travel, art, films, and I love the beach! T-4 para for about 5 years now. I'm seeking stable, successful, athletic type guys. Please include a photo with your response. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1761.*

FLORIDA. GSM 26 5'7" 165#, Hispanic, black hair, brown eyes, nondisabled. In need of a fine male with/without limitation (disability). I say limitation because out there is not disability, should be called limitation. Limitations that we have to overcome and live with! I would like to find the special male that I can share the good and bad moments of my life with. Someone that I can trust as my best friend, someone that can share with me his life too. I enjoy nature and travel, I like to cook and have a good time at home or out. Will answer all. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1898.*

CHICAGO AREA. Bi-married WM, 49 years old, seeking totally discreet meetings in the local area. I'm 5'6", 145 lbs, with lt brown/blonde hair and blue eyes, of Swedish descent. My looks are a bit on the boyish side, and my personality is definitely that way. (As they say, you're only young once, but you can be immature forever...) I'm an RAK, and use crutches to walk even with a prosthesis... because of weakness from childhood polio. I'm a laugher and a lover, and enjoy intense and imaginative physical get-togethers. Contact me if you're in the Chicago area and are interested. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1881, or E-mail: phantmlimb@aol.com*

ILLINOIS. GWM 35, 170#, brown hair, grey eyes, HIV-negative, like fishing, camping, hiking, bowling, movies, dancing, travel and eating out. Looking for friendship or relationship. *John Nowack, 1536—4th Street Ct. E., Milan, IL 61624-3416, or ph: 309 756 3743.*

CA

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ILLINOIS. I'm 29, 6'1, 215, blk/brn, goodlooking C6 quad in chicago looking for a buddy who is nice, fit, able to encourage/challenge me physically, mentally, spiritually, in a positive way. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1439, or E-mail: Thomas20s@aol.com*



ILLINOIS. Nondisabled GWM 62, 6', 188#, blond, short beard, non-smoker, HIV-neg. Want to meet a monogamous partner with or without disabilities, especially in San Francisco, Ca. I'm affectionate, quiet, like French food/wine, vitamins/herbs, felines, gardening, spirituality. *Harold R. Schuring, 300 N. State Street, #5718, Chicago, IL 60610, or ph: 312 670 3507.*

ILLINOIS. Half Polynesian Gay Male, black hair, brown eyes, 03/20/62, 180 lbs., 5'10 1/2", alcohol/drug free. Bipolar



Disorder. Animal lover—I have two cats. I like cross-bike riding, computers and True Crime Stories. I'm a Nudist. I have penpals in different countries. I'm shy at first, but have a quirky (or kinky) sense of humor. Like to exchange photos. *Dana Kiger, 214 E. 7th. St. Apt. #215, Gibson City, IL 60936, or ph: 512 833 6104, or visit <http://homepage.USR.com/d/danaandrews> or e-mail: DANAKIGER@juno.com*

CHICAGO. White male, short, slim (5'6", 130 lbs.) have slight spinal curvature, orthopedic shoe with lift gives me slight limp. Would like to hear from local in-shape guys (a handicap is no excuse). I'm working on my abs! Chicago N. Side, N. Burbs, student long hair a plus. I'm substance free. 8-1-Birthday at Oak Street Beach? Foreign correspondents welcome. A good friend great smile mean a lot! Let's explore Chicago and its ethnic restaurants. possible trip to Palm Beach Fall 1999! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #062.*

CHICAGO. 46 yo GWM with MS looking for friendship, romance, whatever. I use a cane. I use Viagra. I self-catheterize. For someone who is very inexperienced I get around. I look like Drew Carey. I act like the Dalai Lama. I'm a recovering crack addict on Prozac. Take a chance, I love to cuddle. Write me at *POB 09166, Chicago, IL 60609.*

MARYLAND. GWM, mature, hairy, 6ft, blue/brown-gray, 205lbs. Life-long attraction to GMs with one leg shorter than the other or club foot or limp, also polio survivors. I am truthful, loving, monogamous and considerate. I like antiques, classical music & opera,

cooking, travel, loving home in beautiful environment. My handicap is a short penis with small, mis-mated balls. Pen pals appreciated. Contact: John, 1110 Fidler Lane #801, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or ph. 301 589 1873.

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MASSACHUSSETTS. Gwm born 8/8/62, 5' 2", 185lbs, blue eyes, brown hair, mustache. I was born with a rare disability called *lymphatic vascular malformations*. Which means—1 *hemangioma*: a benign growth of rapidly dividing cells that form extra blood vessels; 2 *vascular malformation*: a permanent collection of abnormal capillaries, veins, or lymphatics, occurring either as single channel type or in combination. So what does this mean for me? Well, I have a bigger left hand than normal, I am in constant pain all day and my right leg is affected by this and I can't do much walking; sometimes I use a cane. My interests are tv, music, hand-made crafts, photography, basketball, stamp collection, bank collection, swimming, bowling, playing cards and board games and many more things. If you are a nonsmoker, honest, trustworthy, loyal and caring, please send photo and phone. Looking for friends and possible relationship. *Bobby, 33 Merri Village, Merrimac, MA 01860, ph: 978 346 4495, or E-mail: rship33@aol.com*



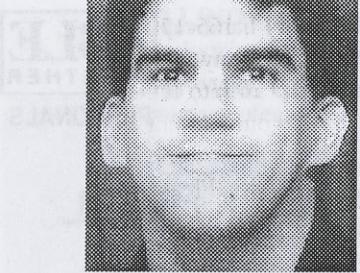
MICHIGAN. Nondisabled GWM, 6', 180 lbs, would like to meet/respond with guys who are amputees and/or wear dentures. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #799.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE. GWM, 50, 6', 185 lbs, reddish hair (some grey), blue eyes, big red mustache, nondisabled, honest, sincere, kind. I love the country and mountains; I collect and restore Victorian antiques, and have a business making custom crutches out of woods such as rosewood and ebony. I am attracted to men who are amputees. Looking to hear from an amputee, and from others abled and disabled, with a view to friendship, maybe more. Photo and phone # appreciated. *Ed Openshaw, POB 65, Rumney, NH 03266, ph: 603 786 9922.*

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY. GWM 44, 5'9", 195#, legally disabled 1988 with major depression, anxiety, chronic fatigue, arthritis, back and leg pain, and severe temporomandibular injury, pain and dysfunction (much of which is iatrogenic—resulting from orthodontia). I use a cane to walk and must rest and recline often. I also use dental splints at home. I receive SSD, and live with my parents. I have average to good looks. As my disabilities permit, I enjoy: gay community stuff, civil liberty, gentle conversation, television and films, nature, gardens, art, photography, music, silence. I especially appreciate the understanding of friends. E.M. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1895.*

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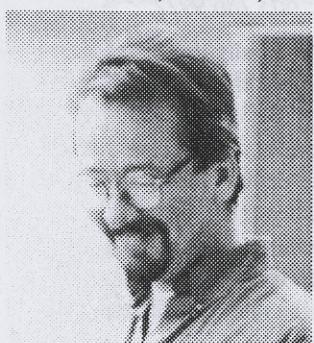


NEW JERSEY. GWM 35, 5'10", 170 lbs. "As Good As It Gets." Have had Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) for 19 years, for which I receive SSD. I enjoy hugs, affection, touching, holding and being held, watching TV and movies, driving, traveling, humor, gay events/meetings, talking on the 'phone, swimming pools, singing, and my cat, Brownie. I am seeking a loving friendship, and a long-term relationship. I am pretty liberal and have Christian beliefs. I don't smoke or drink and prefer you be the same. I prefer a good-looking man with a pretty hairy chest and arms, but clean shaven. I like men 21-48, HIV-neg., caring, honest, trustworthy, very affectionate, romantic, easygoing and sensitive. Can relocate for the right person. Please include recent photo. Call or write. *Jeff Woerner, POB 7049, Plainfield, NJ 07060-0799, or ph: 908 769 3665. God bless you.*

NEW JERSEY. Outgoing, energetic, dynamic, nondisabled 48 yo GWM, 5'10", HIV-neg., with brown hair and hazel eyes, seeks the joy and pleasure of meeting a young, body-building, above-knee amputee for creative friendship. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1229.*

NEW YORK. GWM, 30 y/o, with Muscular Dystrophy, motorized wc user. I am 5'5", 150#, dark brown hair, brown eyes, Italian-American (which means I'm hairy). Starting grad school in Sept 1999 to become a guidance counselor. I love dining out, listening to disco music (yes, disco), & shopping. I'm heavily involved in disability activism/politics. I didlike bars/clubs. Looking to meet someone 25-40 y/o, disabled or not. You are humorous, optimistic, non-conformist, simplistic, considerate, and don't drink or use drugs. Seeking replies from NYC & Long Island. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #161, or E-mail: atrocchia@webtv.net*

NEW YORK. My name is Tom. I am 44 year old male. I am 5'5", 138 lbs., brown hair and goatee. I have my own business and am also an exhibiting artist in the US and Japan. Recently I had a one person show in New York and am preparing for another in August. I enjoy unique people, good conversation and humor. I am a friendly and caring individual who is looking for other disabled persons who want friendship, companionship and love. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by getting together. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1880, or E-mail: TShnei554@aol.com*



NEW YORK. Hi! My name is Doug, a GWM 49, 5'11", 165-170 lbs, HIV-, with very slight cerebral palsy. I'm looking for a guy with or without a disability in age range 35-50. After work I'm into the performing arts, concerts, ballets, opera, lectures, and so on. I do not let my handicap keep me from doing the things I like or want to do but I want to meet the right guy to fill the other void in my life. Please be disease-free and a non-smoker. If you are interested send 'phone and photo to: *POB 275, Bronx, NY 10461*.

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NJ

NY

NEW YORK CITY. Hi, my name is Alan. A NYC native, I'm 32 years old, 6'2", 180 lbs., dark brown hair, brown eyes, very good looking. I have Body Dysmorphic Disorder, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, very mild Tourette's Syndrome, Essential Tremor, and I am recovering from alcoholism. I am a graduate student in museum studies/art history and have two other art-related degrees. I work as an art and antiques dealer. I collect books and ephemera and enjoy the flea market, thrift shops and museums. I'm interested in disability issues and am a volunteer with the National Lesch-Nyhan Disease Registry. I'm not very interested in movies and TV. I am seeking a goodlooking, intelligent, disabled or nondisabled M up to 39 years old. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1553, or ph: 212 989 1724.*

NEW YORK. GWM, 44, 5'11", 155 lbs, good youthful muscular looks, swimmer's body, brown hair, hazel eyes, multilingual, nondisabled; interested in travel, reading, music from opera to house, and cooking; seeking disabled friend, 25-45,—especially if you are Arab, Indian or Latino. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #278.*

NYC. I'm Frank, 25 y.o., friendly, sensitive, vivacious, extroverted, and fun. One friend has described me as "Whitmanesque," which is flattering since Whitman is my poetic idol. I'm an unabashed Romantic, in the sense that I love nature, the expression of emotion, exercise of the imagination, and especially rebellion against social conventions. I'm an involved queer activist, a newspaper columnist, and graduate student. I have arthritis in most of my joints which causes noticeable stiffness and occasional pain, but I do live very independently. I am looking to meet RELATIONSHIP oriented guys (mid 20's to mid 30's) who are similarly Romantic and extroverted. Let's explore the arts, read poetry, see films, go to museums and theater, cook, laugh, and LIVE. If all you want is sexual contact, I won't be interested. But, I will be interested if you're willing to invest the time to help something really wonderful develop. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1802, or E-mail: fs94@columbia.edu*



NEW YORK. Goodlooking GWM 40, nondisabled. I work in the arts and travel frequently. I am looking for disabled male friends for fun and whatever that may lead to. Guys ages 20-50 - perhaps with wheelchair, braces, post-polio - all welcomed. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #384.*

NEW YORK. Attractive, nondisabled w/m with Daddy Bear looks and attitude, 50 yrs., 6', 275 lbs, mostly white beard and moustache, close-cropped hair, hairy body, piercings and tats, and the imagination to go beyond a partner's physical limitations. Long time disability activist interested in meeting men with a wide range of disabilities/differences. Enjoy guys comfortable with the idea that I could be attracted to them and their disabilities. But also love exchanging thoughts with guys new to being an object of desire. Got a long-term lover, but still seeking like-minded guys who I can share ideas, fantasies, fetishes, and yes, some rewarding one-on-one contacts with. Non-sexual interests include writing, theatre, costume design, crafts, music (Broadway to Bach, but little Rock). A body is a terrible thing to waste. Let's not be put off by our differences, let's revel in them!. Call Max at 718 852 1960 or **E-mail: BKBearMax@aol.com** or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #919.*

NEW YORK CITY. GWM, nondisabled, 40, 185, 6', very handsome with classic Mediterranean good looks, clean shaven, masculine, intelligent professional, muscular, gym-fit, HIV-neg., sensitive, stable, affectionate, easygoing and emotionally secure. For as long as I can remember I have always been strongly attracted to physically "different" types of guys. Looking to meet men to explore safe mutual sexual good times and more. Call 212 595 5755 or *replies with correct postage please to A-T #287.* or **E-mail: aex99@aol.com**

WANNA BITE? Groovy 20-something Gay Asian bilateral amputee (b/k), 110 lb., seeks other sexy, differently-desirable men for friendships, mutual support, and minor pleasures of life. I'm clever and creative with a wacky sense of humor. I like matinees, cultural cuisine, flea markets, 80s series *Wonder Woman*, sensual massages and hip-hop music. No MSG (Maniacal Self-serving Gorilla). *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1788* or leave message at voice-mail only for Donald: 917 826 1710.

I LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA. Nondisabled male, 62, 6'1", 220 lbs, gray hair, hazel eyes, hairy chest; I'm attracted to disabled men; I'm retired and travel a great deal, and would love to hear from you wherever you are. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #508.*

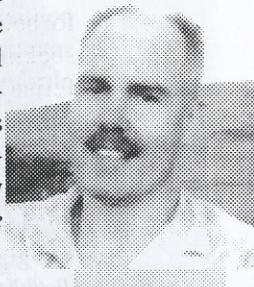
NORTH DAKOTA. Walt here, and I'm still lost out on the Dakota prairie. I was hatched here in 1952 (do the math), but escaped in 1970 and went to college in L.A. and Seattle. Most of the '70s were spent globetrotting with a gospel (sort of)-jazz/rock band. My MS surfaced while I was on the road in Europe back in 1973. After a year off, touring resumed until health said "no more." Following careers from graphics designer to public relations, I ended up back in ND. Although health keeps me fairly sedentary, politics and disability issues keep me active. I am now a freelance writer for various periodicals, and my book, "I've Fallen and I Still Can't Get Up," a commentary on disability, will be released next summer by Champion Press, Beverly Hills. When occasionally not in the wheelchair, I stand at 5'9" and tip the scale at 160#. Obviously, my salt and pepper crew cut is fast becoming history, but I do sport a trimmed 'stache. Despite growing up in an evangelical-fundamentalist home, my spiritual journey has taken me elsewhere. Interests exclude dope, tobacco, too much booze, and "political correctness;" interests include politics, music from opera to Elton, intelligent conversation and meeting someone of like mind. If you connect with any of the above, let's communicate: *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1295 or E-mail: wdudley@pop.ctctel.com*

CLEVELAND, OHIO. GWM born 1941, 5' 8", 140#, brown/blue; diagnosis—MS; currently attempting to get better control of the following symptoms: walking difficulty, bladder and sexual dysfunction; personal interests: history, especially of Cleveland/Northern Ohio & Great Lakes areas, movies, trains, transit, historic preservation, naturism, gay male erotica. I am back in my home town after a career elsewhere, on extended medical leave prior to retirement. Always willing to hear from A-T subscribers in NE Ohio or visitors to our area. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #617.*

LOOKIN' FOR MY SOUL MATE... Oregon. Hi, I'm a groovy personality with an awakening soul. My name is John, I'm 30, 5'4", 150#, and love to stay physically active. I'm pretty high functioning with an incomplete T-12 spinal cord injury of 10 years. I love being outdoors, boating, bicycling, music, travel, metaphysics and trying to find the "right" colors and plants for the house. I'm looking to talk with other guys, disabled and gay, around the country. I'm also looking to meet a swell guy (disabled or non) preferably under 35 and close to Portland for friendship and a long term relationship. Some things I appreciate in other guys are a lively sense of humor, curiosity, optimism and a sense of adventure. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1724, or E-mail: Mupper24@aol.com*

NY

OR



SEEKING COMPANIONSHIP. Gay Jewish Disabled White Male 51, 5'6", seeks GWM friend ages 40 to 60 (or thereabouts) for companionship/relationship. Intelligent, active in community affairs, disability and gay rights, attuned to progressive politics, and work in professional position. Have blond silky hair, trimmed gray beard, moderately hairy chest. Interests include reading, museums, travel, serious movies, international affairs, politics and photography. Enjoy country-western and folk music and dancing. Can do modified form of two-step couple dancing and enjoy traditional East European, Balkan, and Israeli music and dancing. Am hard of hearing and have Cerebral Palsy. Use hearing aids and use cane to assist in mobility. Cannot drive, but can use regular public transportation to get around independently. Enjoy attending folk music concerts with progressive political bent that are interpreted in American Sign Language. Non-smoker. No drugs. Knowledge of ASL, or willingness to learn, a plus. Alan. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1762.*

PENNSYLVANIA. Good guy, 40, 5'11", 165#, brown hair and eyes, good-looking, masculine, solid, nondisabled. Personable, casual, unconventional, active, affectionate. Enjoy music, the outdoors, movies, sports, exercise, good food, good conversation, good books, and good times. Have positive, sincere, lifelong interest in men with disabilities, particularly upper extremity amputees and survivors of SCI, polio or spina bifida who use crutches. Maybe it's the athletic aspect of the upper body, my thoughts on intimacy and disability, discovering him whom others may overlook...Now I am embracing this interest and seeing where it leads me: I'm more than happy to explore and explain with the right guy. I hope to offer a high degree of awareness, knowledge and sensitivity to a disabled man to see what we can enjoy or build together. Have dated a few men with disabilities and all was ok. If you like what you hear and the above seems to fit, please be in touch. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1428 or ph: 215 829 9650.*



PENNSYLVANIA. GWM 39 years old with a swimmer's build, 5'9", 125 lbs, with cerebral palsy. I am masculine and cute. I have my college degree in theatre. I already wrote a play and it was staged at Penn State University in the main campus. Believe me - I don't let my disability stand in my way of anything or anybody. I live on my own, one hour away from Philadelphia and one hour away from New York City. My interests are the theatre, working out at the gym, dancing, going to the beach in the summer, laying in the sun to get a dark tan without a tan line, partying, going to see male dancers, and traveling. Believe me, I do every-

thing and anything. I am looking for someone to be with to enjoy life and to have a blast with. And...Hey, is there any guy out there who wants to take a vacation? Please contact me if you do. I was thinking about going to one of the islands, just lay out on the beach in our bikinis and look at the view. *Bill Lasch, 1101 Seneca Street #208, Bethlehem, PA 18015, ph: 610 866 4679.*

**ABLE
TOGETHER**

PERSONALS

SOUTH DAKOTA. Hello, my name is Tom, I'm a 38 year old GWM, 5' 11", 155lbs, brown, blue quadriplegic from an auto acc. in 1984. I'm a "struggling" writer ;o) Write poetry occasionally, nothing published yet. I'm into wheelchair Olympics. My cute puppy keeps me happy, Gordon Setter. I'm an x sailor and into mechanics on Helicopters. I smoke and don't care if you do. Prefer any friends to be pen-pals first, then looking for LTR. Age is no preference but must be honest and open to advice. Looking for friends to spend time with same interests, ie—outdoors, camping, fishing, watching movies by a fire, dining out, most music from the 70s—80s. Sincere, dependable. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #412, or E-mail: TBak301048@aol.com*



TX STUD . GWM, good looking, 32, 5'11", 165lb, short brown hair, green eyes, clean cut, muscular, masculine, frat type. L2 incomplete para, as of 8 months ago. My situation is unique in that my spinal cord is intact and uninjured. I had a traumatic injury which resulted in losing 33 pints of blood. So, I have all feeling and sensation as well as continuing return. Although I currently use a wheelchair, I am totally independent. I am smart (degreed professional), funny, witty, sarcastic, sweet, honest, and romantic. I love to travel, like sports, like to work hard and get dirty, but I also clean up well. I left the city to live in the country where it is peaceful, which allows me to keep focused while working hard at physical therapy. I would like to meet guys of all ages disabled or not for fun, friendship, companionship, or even sex! I am a great guy who is very adaptable and a lot of fun to be around. Someone will be lucky to catch me! *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1882.*

TEXAS. Hi, I'm Joey, 30, 5'5", medium build, 160 lbs., Hispanic. I was born with Spina Bifida. I use crutches to get around and I'm very active and do not let my disability slow me down. I enjoy tennis, basketball, hockey, traveling, museums, opera. I like active guys younger than me. I welcome correspondence from able or disabled guys. I like to just hang out or talk on the phone. My favorite books are novels by Anne Rice. My favorite foods are

PA

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Mexican and Chinese. I enjoy walks in the park or weekends at the lake camping, gazing at the stars. I would like to hear from guys who have to wear diapers. Pen pals welcome. Please write with mailing address and preferably photo. Joey A. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1883.*

TEXAS FARM BOY. Country kid seeks LTR with a down-to-earth abled country or city boy. GWM 60, good natured, physically fit, college educated and very masculine. 5'10", 170#, blond hair, blue eyes, hairy, fair complexion, HIV-neg., and no drugs ever. I consider myself highly spirited, physically active, virile, very sensual/sexual and affectionate. My disability is very moderate and invisible. I have a congenital eye problem and wear glasses for good correction.

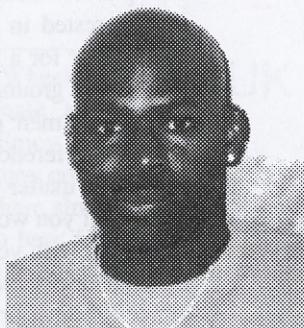


Also have a low-back problem L-4/L-5 that prevents heavy lifting. Otherwise in excellent health and good shape. My friends say I'm a bit rough around the edges, unique and unconventional—yet always the gentleman. I am seeking a younger man, 30 to 45, possibly 50, attractive, slender/very trim, who is comfortable with self, respectful, very considerate, active, not consumed by material possessions, loyal honest and very sensual/sexual, HIV-neg. and drug-free, and seeking a sincere relationship based on love and trust with an older man. I am very willing to relocate for the right person. Your photo and 'phone # gets mine. *J. D., POB 221, Royse City, TX 75189.*

TEXAS. GWM 52, brown/hazel, 5'0", 131 lbs, HIV-neg., smoke, alcohol & drug free (12 yrs. recovery), seeking friendship, cuddling, safe sex, giggles, & perhaps love; but no wedding rings. I'm not into penpals or telephone friendships. From old polio I have scoliosis (spine curves to right), a hump on right side of back and an underdeveloped left shoulder—also slight, seasonal asthma. I'm handsome, mischievously sexual, and fit. I question authority—my own, as well as others'—and I'm playfully irreverent. I'm a community college professor, professionally secure and financially comfortable. I love music: R&R, big band & classical (baroque to 20th c), astrology (student for 20+ years), *X-Files*, *Cops*, *America's Most Wanted*, antiques, bookstores, conversation, low fat dining, light exercise, Monopoly, Scrabble and old b&w movies. Please be: able to travel (as I am) should we decide to meet. Also be: DD and smoke free, sensitive, fun, fit within your ability, willing to try things you haven't, possibly a polio survivor and/or an amputee, or even physically normal. Photo gets mine. *Billy Roberts, ph: 512 385 8313, or replies with correct postage please to A-T #956.*

TEXAS. Clean cut, GWM, 40s, 5'10", 165, able bodied, very interested in meeting new friends. I often find myself attracted to guys with physical disabilities. I travel a great deal (especially So. California and major cities), so location isn't as important as a sharing of mutual interests. I enjoy the performing and fine arts, classical music, architectural history, good food/wine with an interesting guy. My favorite countries to visit are France and Italy, but am open to new experiences. Let's have dinner (please be a non-smoker), explore our interests and perhaps plan an adventure! I look forward to hearing from you soon. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1420, or E-mail: Brooks346@aol.com*

TEXAS. GBM, 33, 6', 180, C7-incomplete quadriplegic. Shaved head, brown eyes, athletic build, college educated, wheelchair user, just an adventurous, energetic, clean-cut, all-American guy. Looking to meet friends who share similar interests. My interests are weightlifting, going to the movies, dining out, attending sporting events, theater, and traveling. I am extremely active in wheelchair sports, such as quad rugby, wheelchair racing and football. Neither age nor races are issues, if you're interested e-mail or write...*Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1885, or E-mail: neulsjr@swbell.net*



VIRGINIA. I am a 53 year old disabled man, in a wheelchair, but not confined to it, due to diabetic neuropathy. All toes on both feet have been amputated. Had CVA in August—health now improving since I have become a vegetarian. My interests are Art—I paint; History—ancient to European renaissance; Music—any kind other than Jazz and Hard Rock. I am 6'2", dirty blond/hazel, clean shaven, and my weight fluctuates between 250# and 300#. I like to hug and hold and give excellent full body massages. I am an avid movie buff and love animals. I am looking for a large, hairy, gentle giant type to visit me and look forward to an LTR. I love Europeans and am a confirmed Francophile. Canadian and Swiss also a definite plus, as is lumberjack type. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1543, or ph: 540-342 5859 between 9am and 11pm Eastern time.*

VIRGINIA, ALEXANDRIA. GWM 47, 5' 10" tall, 180#, brown hair and eyes, very hairy body, solid, nondisabled. Wishes to meet amputees for friendship and possibly more. *Michael Allen, POB 19435, Alexandria, VA 22320.*

WASHINGTON. I am 45, Asian, 6'2", 270#, and diabetic. I am looking for a wonderful man, who is as sincere, kind, good hearted and honest as I am. He needs to enjoy communicating, sharing, and

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cuddling. I want someone who is seeking to grow personally and interpersonally, and is willing to support my growth too. Brains, integrity and character are far more important than looks to me. *Replies with correct postage please to A-T #1897, or E-mail: LUOGUOJIAN1@hotmail.com*

HOMEBASE SEATTLE, WA. I know there is a great guy out there looking for someone he can spend quality time with! I'm truly interested in connecting with someone who is good to himself and those that he holds dear. I have been in long term relations with both a primary partner and long term friendships. I am a GWM 42, 175 lbs, 6'2", light brown hair, blue/green eyes and have muscular dystrophy. I have worked in the PC/networking fields for the last 20+ years and now plan to travel throughout North America, Australia and Europe. I am interested in meeting new friends worldwide. I now work as a Webmaster for a traveler resource called **AbleTraveler.com** just getting off the ground. I am also interested in writing a book that focuses on disabled men: coming out stories, insights, successful relationships, &c. My preference in a mate is someone with a good sense of humor. It doesn't matter to me if you have a disability, small stature, small cock, or if you work or don't work. It's more important to me that you are happy with your life and what you contribute to the greater good. I use an electric wheelchair to get around. I love travel, theater, dining out or at home, or a concert. Give me a call, I would love to hear from you. *Dan Pierce, MSC 6756, POB 2428, Pensacola, FL 32513-2428, or ph: 206 619 1365 or e-mail: abletraveler@abac.com*

Why not send A-T a photo to be published with your ad?

OXFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND. Friendly, intelligent, attractive nondisabled guy, 50ish but look much younger, iso disabled guys as penpals and friends. I like exchanging ideas and feelings, like kisses, cuddles and massage, want to make you happy. Do write. Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1592.

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND. Good looking, fit, active wheelchair-user, 28, looking to explore and have physical fun with other sexy looking wheelchair bound guys, hobbies include cycling, weight-training, countryside, cinema, enjoying life. *14 Abbey Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 8HH, UK or ph: [UK] - [0]131 468 0490*

PERTH, SCOTLAND. My name is Peter, I'm 43, heavy build, brown hair and clean shaven. Disability due to SCI last year. I'm mobile with walking sticks and my car helps too. My interests are

varied and include reading, music, films. I'm looking for guys, disabled or able-bodied, for friendship and perhaps, with the right person, possibly more. I look forward to hearing from you. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1774, or email: barking91@hotmail.com*



PERSONALS

PARIS, FRANCE. GWM, 37, 6'1", brown hair and eyes, able-bodied Journalist/musician, based in Paris, would love to hear from any disabled guys who would like to correspond or visit in the new century. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1424.*

VA

AUS

UK

W'RLD

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA. Harold, a 49 y.o. Wheelchair user (SCI). 5'6" Well-built. Good-looking, affectionate and sexy. Professional background. I am very independent. Enjoy travelling, scuba diving, movies, dinners out. I drive. Would enjoy corresponding with guys who are disabled/nondisabled who share similar values with a view to friendship. Cheers & I hope to hear from you soon. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1305, or email: harold@connexus.net.au*

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA. Richard, 43 yo architect. I have Spinal Muscular Atrophy (Kugelberg and Welanders Syndrome) and would particularly like to correspond with other guys with this or similar neuro-muscular conditions—though anyone else is also welcome to write. I am still ambulant for most of the time, though becoming increasingly reliant on my wheelchair (manual, ultra light) for shopping and “long-haul” activities. My interests include theatre, opera, classical music (particularly choral—I sing!) and computers. I still socialize a bit on the gay scene here, though I often find access and standing around quite difficult. *Replies with correct international postage please to A-T #1665 or E-mail: richpond@bigpond.com*

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HONDURAS. GWM 45, 160 lbs, 6', short brown hair, brown eyes, clean cut, clean shaven, hard of hearing, lips reading, English or Spanish language, I like travel, reading, art, cooking, homelife, look for permanent couple, friendship, someone to share the rest of my life with. *M.C., POB 1577, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Central America.*

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The Center for Disability Rights in Rochester, New York has begun monthly meetings of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered persons with disabilities. The Center is located at 41 Backus Street, Rochester, NY 14608. The group will get together from 5:00 PM—8:00 PM every third Wednesday of the month. Call Bruce Darling or Susan Stahl on 716 647-9257

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is in its sixth year of publication. A-T is mailed to subscribers across the globe in January, April, July, and October and is sold at gay/progressive bookstores.

Editor **Bob Guter**, an amputee since age six, examines the impact of disability on men's lives and relationships.

A-T Magazine is its subscribers—who contribute articles, art, poetry, letters, opinions, and bulletin-board items to the magazine, and help with outreach locally.

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